

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109997
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /023 R

66011

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APPROVED BY:NEA/PAB:JACOON

S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

-----106305 290536Z /23

O 290446Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE 8064

UNCLAS STATE 109997

FOL KABUL 3279 SENT ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF DIRNSA FT MEADE MD

CINCPAC INFO ISLAMABAD NEW DELHI TEHRAN APR 28, 1978

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS KABUL 3279

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI, TEHRAN ALSO FOR USDAOs

SITREP 15

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF

SUBJECT: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL

1. AT 1845 ON APRIL 28, RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED THAT "ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WORKERS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND MEMBERS OF TRANSPORT ORGANIZATIONS ARE TO GO TO WORK ON APRIL 29 AT THE USUAL 0700 OPENING TIME -- AND CARRY ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS OF THE MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY FORCES." COMMENT: THIS IS ANOTHER OF THE NEW REGIME'S ENDEAVORS TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF NORMALCY. END
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COMMENT

2. AT 1910, THE REGIME ANNOUNCED THAT TONIGHT'S CURFEW WILL BEGIN AT 2200. (LAST NIGHT'S CURFEW STARTED AT 2000.)

3. WE HEARD A REPORT THAT AT 0800 THIS MORNING, THE YUGOSLAV AND INDIAN AMBASSADORS WERE SUMMONED BY THE NEW REGIME TO AN

1100 MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. IF THIS REPORT IS CORRECT -- AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO VERIFY THIS AT THIS TIME, THE TOPIC OF THE MEETING MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE HELD FROM MAY 6 TO 10 IN KABUL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GERMAN RADIO REPORT WHICH STATED THAT THE NEW REGIME HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CONFERENCE. RADIO AFGHANISTAN HAS SAID NOTHING ABOUT THIS. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOME LEADERS OF THE NEW REGIME MIGHT POSSIBLY DESIRE TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE ITS IMAGE (THE REGIME HAS ALREADY ENDORSED THE PRINCIPLE OF NONALIGNMENT) IT IS AT THIS TIME HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN GET THEIR ACT -- AND CAPITAL CITY -- IN SHAPE BY MAY 6. PERHAPS A DELAY IS IN THE WORKS. END COMMENT.

4. CRITICIZING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE OVERTHROWN DAOUD REGIME, RADIO AFGHANISTAN HAS CITED "GIVING ELECTRIC SHOCKS, PULLING OUT FINGERNAILS, POURING BOILING OIL ONNAKED BODIES, AND OTHER UNSEEN TORTURES WHICH WERE THE INVENTION OF THE ROTTEN REPUBLICAN REGIME." COMMENT: WE HOPE THAT THIS MEANS THAT THE NEW REGIME WILL BE SETTING HIGHER HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS FOR ITSELF. JUDGING FROM WHAT WE SAW AND HEARD NEAR THE EMBASSY, WE SUSPECT THAT SEVERAL SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE CITY YESTERDAY. END COMMENT

5. BECAUSE SO MANY POLICE WERE KILLED OR ARRESTEDBY THE COUP
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TROOPS, WE HAVE SEEN COLLEGE-AGE STUDENTS DIRECTING TRAFFIC AT VARIOUS CITY INTERSECTIONS.

6. THE TROOPS OUTSIDE OUR FRONT GATE PERMITTED THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR TO EXIT THIS EVENING. HE WAS ESCORTED TO HIS HOUSE BY AN AFGHAN MILITARY JEEP OCCUPIED BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE A COUP OFFICIAL IN AN AIR FORCE UNIFORM. AS THE CONVOY PASSED THROUGH THE STREETS OF SHA-I-NAU, THE AIR FORCE OFFICER WAS CHEERED BY CIVILIANS STANDING ALONG THE ROUTE.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE "COLONEL ASLAM WATANJAR," REPORTED EARLIER TO BE THE COUP LEADER, MIGHT ACTUALLY BE COLONEL ASLAM WATANYAR, WHO MIGHT ALSO BE KNOWN AS SALIM ZURMATI (I.E., FROM ZURMAT, A VILLAGE IN THE PUSHTUN PROVINCE OF PAKTIA). THE NEW REGIME'S SPOKESMAN, COLONEL ABDUL QADIR MIGHT ALSO HAVE THE SAME TRIBAL SURNAME OF ZURMATI. WE ARE TRYING TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION. ELIOT UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE109997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:JACOON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780183-0590
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978041/aaaaaamz.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d538b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2812771
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d538b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014